

WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT
36 LOCUST STREET
WESTMINSTER, MD 21157
410-848-4646

JEFFREY SPAULDING
CHIEF OF POLICE



MEDIA RELEASE

**IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**
June 21, 2011

Westminster Police Department Reports 2011 *Click It or Ticket* Citation Results

The Westminster Police Department announced today that its Patrol officers ticketed **785** motorists for not wearing seat belts during the *Click It or Ticket* seat belt enforcement mobilization which ran during the month of May 2011. Law enforcement agencies throughout **Maryland** participated in this nationwide annual effort to get more motorists to buckle up — and save more lives.

Worn correctly, seat belts reduce the risk of fatal injury by 45 percent for front-seat passenger car occupants — and by 60 percent for pickup truck, SUV, and van occupants. Yet nationally in 2009, 53 percent of fatally injured passenger vehicle occupants were NOT wearing seat belts at the time of the fatal crashes.

High-visibility enforcement such as the *Click It or Ticket* mobilization is credited with increasing the national seatbelt usage rate from 58 percent in 1994 to an observed usage rate of 85 percent in 2010. Belt use saves thousands of lives each year across America. In 2009 alone, seat belts saved 12,713 lives nationwide. In Westminster the seat belt usage rate was 88.25% before the campaign, after the campaign the usage rate rose to 95%.

The Westminster Police Department joined forces with NHTSA and other state and local enforcement and highway safety partners in support of this year's *Click It or Ticket* mobilization, which featured high-visibility enforcement and outreach activities including paid national advertising in support of the highway safety campaign.

For more about the 2011 mobilization, go to www.TrafficSafetyMarketing.gov.

MEDIA CONTACT

CAPTAIN GERRY FRISCHKORN
ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU
WESTMINSTER POLICE
DEPARTMENT
36 LOCUST STREET
WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND
21157
(410) 848-1638

#

WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT
TIPS LINE— (410) 857-8477